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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 99

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR SEEK LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF THE WELFARE REFORM STATE PLAN PRIOR TO SUBMITTING IT TO THE FEDERAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the interim legislative health and human services interim committee met numerous times at different locations throughout the state seeking public input regarding welfare reform; and

WHEREAS, the interim legislative health and human services committee appointed the welfare reform work group to work with representatives of the human services department, the children, youth and families department, the labor department, the department of health and with welfare advocates throughout the state to produce Senate Bill 1198 and House Bill 1337; and

WHEREAS, the interim legislative health and human services

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1 committee endorsed Senate Bill 1198 and House Bill 1337; and

2 WHEREAS, the legislative intent and purpose stated in
3 Senate Bill 1198 and House Bill 1337, as passed by the
4 legislature, is to bring meaningful welfare reform to the state
5 and to serve as the cornerstone of a new and better welfare
6 reform service delivery system that emphasizes the long-term
7 benefit of enhancing work-related training and education to
8 increase the probability of success and self-sufficiency for
9 recipients of assistance and their children; and

10 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1198 and House Bill 1337, as passed by
11 the legislature, state that their further goal is to ensure to
12 the maximum extent possible that welfare reform in New Mexico
13 takes place fairly and that parents of children receive help in
14 becoming self-sufficient in the workplace; and

15 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 588, as passed by the legislature,
16 sets out the legislature's requirement that it approve the state
17 plan pursuant to P.L. 104-193 prior to submission to the federal
18 health and human services department; and

19 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1198 and House Bill 1337, as passed by
20 the legislature, establish the statutory framework necessary for
21 welfare reform to be carried out by the state with funds
22 provided by the temporary assistance for needy families block
23 grant authorized by Section 103 of P.L. 104-193 and these
24 measures, as passed, direct the governor to seek the maximum
25 block grant funding and federal contingency fund allocations

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1 that are available pursuant to P.L. 104-193; and

2 WHEREAS, the absence of a necessary statutory framework to
3 implement welfare reform would violate Article III, Section 1 of
4 the constitution of New Mexico as the governor would be engaging
5 in policymaking without appropriate legislative oversight;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested, prior to
8 submission to the federal department of health and human
9 services department, to seek legislative approval of the state
10 plan and amendments to the state plan to ensure that the
11 appropriate legislative oversight is exercised; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor and to the federal department of
14 health and human services.